



CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

Headteacher's Letter

It has been a wonderful term with lots of incredible opportunities for the children. Our Stansted site is now full for the first time since we opened and the staff there have excelled in continuing to develop an immersive curriculum. Each team I meet with heads I am reminded how lucky I am to lead a remarkable team of staff.

Those of you who have been in school at events or attended parents evening or annuals reviews will know how committed the staff are. I think those who have not been through a normal Grange Park Christmas have been surprised how much we pack into the last few days. Without their help and enthusiasm, these events would not be so wonderful. I had the pleasure of joining the elves and Santa, seeing those smiling faces brings me so much joy. During the church service I shed a tear as I was not prepared for the solo singing. For too many of our children, these whole school events have been negative, so it is wonderful to see them confidently contribute to a performance, poem, reading or a song. All our children are invited to contribute.

The children once again showed resilience and patience as we had to transport them to church for the service due to the icy pavements. I completely understand that these changes and less structure, can impact them and therefore I am filled with pride when all the children demonstrate such impeccable behaviour. Sitting together in the hall with all the staff and governors is a wonderful celebration of our community. It's strength and my visions for the children to feel part of something, is there for us all to see. I am sure you will join me in thanking the staff for their hard work and dedication to the school and the pupils.

The school council continues to share their views and we have made some changes following their requests. Next term I will meet with all the children to ask them their views and ask the questions "what can I do to make Grange Park a better school?". Throughout the pandemic we continued to move forward, gain accreditations and achieve outstanding outcomes, but now I want to challenge myself to ask all stakeholders how we can improve; what's working well and what else can we do to ensure that you feel you have all the information you need to support our shared journey to support the pupils. There will be more information next term, but I will be starting with Year 8 and 9 parents at their parents evening.

I am sure many of you will have seen the Local Authorities Ofsted inspection. I am working with the other Kent special schools to ensure we maintain the high standards in our provisions, and more importantly, protect our future. I am lucky to have a governing board who understand the children and their needs. They share my vision and spend significant amount of time in school. I have their full support, and I reassure you that they work hard to influence external parties so that they understand what Grange Park does and the difference we make to our young people. They have been pivotal in arranging visits from Tom Tugendhat and Tracey Crouch our local MPs, and the new KCC Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, Cllr Rory Love. I will of course keep you updated with any developments and county changes. I will always fight for what's best for Grange Park and the pupils.

Next term we welcome back Mrs Rose who returns from maternity leave. Mrs Rose, Mr Dark and Mrs Hume will be leading some exciting whole school projects, more information will be shared by them next term.

We now have all the PE kit information and we will send these new kits home once Casey's have completed the order. Thank you to those of you who contacted me to share your gratitude for the new free PE kit.

Thank you for all your support and trust. I am so great full to have your support; together we are stronger. I do hope that you all have a lovely break and I wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas.

Miss Renukah Atwell
Executive Headteacher

Upcoming Events:

Week beginning 16th January 2023: Mock Exams

Week beginning 16th January 2023: Year 10 Annual Reviews

Tuesday 17th January 2023 Year 7 Gurdwara Trip

Thursday 19th January 2023: Year 8 & 9 Parents Evening

Thursday 26th January 2023: Year 9 Horniman Museum Visit

Thursday 26th January 2023: Key Stage 5 Parents Evening

Week beginning 30th January 2023: Year 9 Annual Reviews

Wednesday 1st February 2023: Shakespeare for Schools Workshop

Thursday 2nd February 2023: HPV Vaccinations

Thursday 2nd February 2023: Live Macbeth Performance in School

Message from the Chairman of Governors

It's that time of year when some might hear the jingle of bells and the sound of reindeer hooves on the roof but Christmas is not always an easy time for some especially this year with the costs of living spiraling ever upwards and the money in our pockets not stretching as far as we would wish.



After a lot of searching, I am delighted to confirm that Kristie Horley and Katherine Davies are our two newly-elected Parent Governors who have already attended their first Full Governing Body meeting, as well as attending the Teaching and Learning Committee. They are going to be an asset and all governors are looking forward to working with them.

Governors are immensely proud of our pupils and staff for the fantastic exam results they enjoyed this summer. All the hard work put in by our students paid off in spades, and it was an absolute pleasure when the results were shared with us.

As some of you may know, Grange Park is one of the founder members of the Kent Special Education Needs Trust (KsENT) - a body which represents the 26 special schools in Kent and, as I am sure many also know, County received a second damning report on its Special Needs provision when Ofsted revisited earlier this Autumn. This report has galvanized County into an action plan on a six-month timescale to conclude in June next year. Miss Atwell and myself feel this is rushed and the implications of it has not been thought through. This plan is designed to get as many children with special needs into mainstream education as possible and laudable though this might well be, one size does not fit all.

There has been a recent meeting between County, Headteachers of Special Schools and Chairs of Governors, at which County officers did acknowledge that Special School Headteachers were the experts in the room and in Ofsted terms, with the exception of one school, all Kent special schools are either 'Good' or 'Outstanding' (we are currently rated as 'Good' but as it's six years since our last inspection, sooner rather than later we are expecting Ofsted Inspectors to visit).

We understand there is also a concern with regard to issuing EHCPs with those granting them seemingly dragging their feet for an assortment of reasons that is difficult to get to the bottom of but this is not helpful to either schools or parents. In the latest Ofsted report, the LA was criticized for the length of time it took for parents to get any sort of answer by either telephone or email – this problem is faced by Headteachers too on a daily basis.

We would like County to work more closely with us and the expertise that undoubtedly we have, to be constructive not destructive or obstructive. This is all very worrying, but we are "on the case" and will update you from time to time.

In these difficult times, I wish you and yours peace and joy in this coming Christmas time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Sue Murray', written over a horizontal line.

Sue Murray

Chair of Governors

School Council

Every year, each form votes for a new class representative. This year we had some great new candidates.

The School Council meet once every term and it was so nice to have a full meeting with all of the new representatives .

We have had lots of discussions about pupils' rights and if they are being met at school.

At the meeting we went through any feedback or new ideas from each form. Some of the ideas this term were:

- New basketball hoops
- Mirrors in the toilets
- Bags for Key Stage 4 pupils
- New PE kits

Meet our new Council Members



Year 11: Jared - Head Pupil

Year 11: Paul - Head Pupil

Year 11: Oliver - Rights Respecting Lead

Year 11: Karanveer - Sports Captain

Key Stage 5: Henry - School Council

Year 11: Henry - School Council

Year 10: Callum - School Council

Year 9a: Robert - School Council

Year 9b: Rhys - School Council

Year 8a: Danny - School Council

Year 8b: Rhys - School Council

Year 7a: Harry - School Council

Year 7b: Joey - School Council

Year 5/6: Isla - School Council

Whole School Activities

Chessington

Our first school trip of the year took place in September, and was a whole school visit to Chessington.

Staff and pupils were really excited to spend the day at the park and the fast passes meant that we got to ride everything that we wanted. Some students and pupils in Key Stage 5 and Year 11 got to go around the park in small groups to help build their independence skills and they all behaved brilliantly. The weather was great and everybody had a wonderful day, and it was such a positive start to the new academic year.

We were able to subsidise the cost of the trip as all of the money made at the school talent show and BBQ raffle enabled us to pay for the cost of the coach hire, so thank you to everybody who bought raffle tickets and donated prizes.



PSHE Days

Friday 30th September - Climate Change

On Friday 30th September we held our first Climate Change PSHE day for pupils at both our Wrotham and Stansted sites. It was a fun filled day, with a visitor talk in the morning to discuss about climate change and the effect it is having on our planet. Pupils then took part in an English lesson where they were writing formal letters about how they can make a change in school, at home or globally.

Pupils then had a lesson on the science behind climate change; why it is happening, what it is doing to our planet and what we can do to make a change.

Later, everyone took part in a lesson deciding what charitable act, event or fundraising activity pupils are going to organise in their year groups this year. Year 11 have already completed Christmas boxes which will feature within this newsletter.

In the afternoon, the whole school took part in a Macmillan coffee afternoon, our KS5 pupils organised as part of their enterprise programme, and parents and all pupils were invited to buy some cakes and enjoy a tea or coffee, in aid of raising money for a really important charity. In total, we raised £326.77, which was an amazing achievement.

The whole day was a huge success and listening to pupils' real insights to how climate change affects their future was really eye-opening. I think we may have some new Greta Thunberg's on our hands!



Wednesday 16th November - Anti-Bullying Day

On Wednesday 16th November we held our second PSHE day of the year, which was our annual Anti-Bullying Day. Pupils were given the option to wear odd socks for the day, which highlights that they are in support of everyone being unique and supporting their differences.

The day consisted of a VR-headset session where the pupils experienced bullying in a classroom and had some really honest and open conversations about this. They took part in a cyber-bullying session which highlighted how words written online can affect others. The pupils chose some acts of kindness that they would like to spread over the following term and in the future.

Each year group also elected an Anti-Bullying Ambassador, took part in some scenarios and discussed what they can do in the future to stop bullying, and finished the day with every pupil putting their name against our Grange Park Anti-bullying pledge.

Our staff commented on how mature and inspiring the conversations our pupils were having, and what an incredible day they had with the pupils. Well done to all involved!

Harvest Festival

On Wednesday 12th October, we had our Annual Harvest Festival at Wrotham Church. Parents were invited to come and watch the performance, where we had a record number of volunteers and some excellent reading and singing from our Wrotham and Stansted pupils.

The whole of the Wrotham site walked from school to the church and showed exceptional behaviour for the journey and during the performance in the church. The service consisted of stories, prayers, poems, hymns and a talk from Reverend Edwards.

Our food donations were boxed up and passed on to the church who were taking them on to the local food bank to be distributed in the local area. Thank you to all who kindly made donations,

A great event and we look forward to our Christmas Service.



Remembrance Day

This year pupils from both Wrotham and Stansted marked Remembrance Day in number of different ways.

An incredible poppy cross was delivered by our Key Stage 5 students to St George's Church in Wrotham and was displayed outside so that marked the entrance to the church.

Pupils at both sites created thoughtful and beautiful displays to mark the occasion, and pupils at the Stansted site attended the wreath laying at the village war memorial. Thank you to everyone who was involved in marking such an important occasion.



SPaG Attack

At both Wrotham and Stansted, pupils have been pushing their punctuation skills to the max in their SPaG Attack sessions.

The weekly challenges are created by the English department to help all pupils improve their confidence in SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar). They are completed as part of form time and there is a new topic to focus on every three weeks, from capital letters to speech marks.

In December, pupils have taken part in the World Cup of Commas and also learnt lots of fascinating facts about the tournament along the way.



Forest School

It has been a very busy start of the year in Forest School. Pupils from both Wrotham and Stansted have done a fantastic job creating a new seating area in the Forest, and have been practising using hand tools safely.

Whilst we have been exploring our surroundings, we have been able to forage a variety of foods including some "parasol mushrooms" which were cooked on the open fire and then enjoyed as a delicious snack!

We are incredibly lucky to have such a wonderful facility on site, and the pupils really benefit from exploring the great outdoors every week.



Shakespeare for Schools

We have started rehearsals for Macbeth. The pupils have been attending weekly rehearsal sessions at lunchtime in preparation for a performance at the Woodville Halls theatre in Gravesend, which will be in March next year.



The pupils will have an in-school workshop, with an actor from the Shakespeare for Schools company, at the beginning of February to help them prepare for their upcoming performance.

After Christmas, there will be more details about the performance if your child is involved.

We are very fortunate to be welcoming an external production company to the school in February and they will be performing a live version of Macbeth.

Stansted

Chessington

A fantastic day was had by all of Oak Class on the Chessington school trip! For many of the pupils, it was their first trip with the school.

The students were fantastic and grateful at this opportunity, to take part in a fun day with their peers and showed great support for each other.

They tried new things, communicated with each other, showing brilliant teamwork and took it in turns to suggest where we should go next.



Year 5/6 Arctic Explorer Afternoon

As part of our topic this term, Frozen Kingdom, we decided to participate in an arctic explorer afternoon.

The pupils showed amazing team work during this giant project, to create our very own igloo (out of cardboard).

They thought about their small igloo structures that they had been working on, and how they could put these skills into practice on a larger scale. They thought about how to reinforce the structure so that it wouldn't collapse and how to try to get the shape of an igloo using the cardboard. They worked tirelessly and rewarded their efforts by enjoying some story telling time inside their igloo.



Year 5/6 French Themed Day

As an introduction to French as their Modern Foreign Language, years 5 and 6 took part in a French themed day.

They wore clothes to resemble the colours of the French flag, baked croissants and pain au chocolats, and put their maths skills to the test, to be able to earn bricks to re-create the Eiffel Tower.

We also practiced using French words, greeting peers with 'Bonjour' and 'Salut' and looking at the French words for different animals.

Well done, Oak Class!



Year 5/6 - Kent Life WWII Experience Day

As part of Year 5/6's World War II topic this term, we visited Kent Life to take part in one of their themed events.

We answered questions about air raids, showing our fantastic knowledge. We listened intently as we were told about rationing and guided into a small cottage where we could ask questions about what life would have been like during WWII.

We also took part in some rag rug making, using a tool called a bodger, strips of material and old potato sacks! Year 5/6 were polite and engaged with all of the activities, with staff from the grounds commenting on just how excellent they had been.

Well done 5/6 and thank you for a wonderful day!



Stansted Christmas Afternoon

This year we held a Christmas experience afternoon for our Stansted pupils, with a very special visitor!

Our sports hall had been transformed into a magical winter wonderland, with a festive grotto. Our year 5, 6 and 7 pupils enjoyed painting tree decorations and decorating a festive plate for their treats to leave Santa on Christmas Eve. Children were invited into Santa's grotto, where they received a special gift from the man himself.

This was something very new for the pupil's, but as always, they took it all in their stride and had a really wonderful afternoon. We hope these are treasured memories for years to come, and a big thank you to Santa for taking time out at this incredibly busy time of year to visit us at Grange Park.



Year 7 Bodium Castle Visit

In History this term, Year 7 have been learning about castles – their location, attack and defence, as well as developing their understanding of the different roles within the castle. As part of our project, in November we went on a school trip to see Bodium Castle—a perfect example of a 14th century moated castle



The driving rain and biting wind did nothing to dampen our spirits as the children had an atmospheric guided tour of the ruined castle. At least the rain brought the magnificent carp to the surface in the moat surrounding the castle.



Wrotham

Textiles

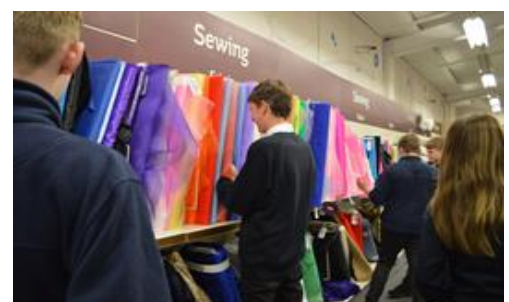
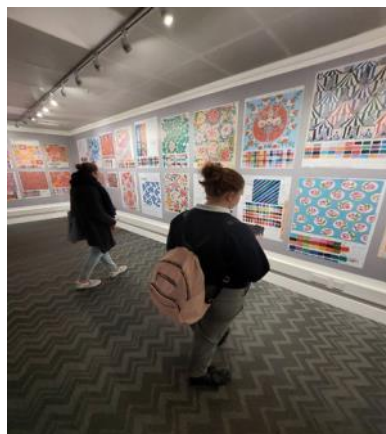
Our Year 7 and 9 pupils went on a class visit to Hobbycraft in Maidstone as part of their Textiles course.

The Year 7s had the opportunity to see the equipment and to also chose some fabric as part of the project that they are working on. The Year 9s were able to use the digital scanner and print their own fabrics which they also were then able to purchase.

We had lots of lovely comments from the shop staff about the excellent behaviour of all of the pupils.

Our Year 11 pupils were fortunate to be able to visit the Fashion & Textiles Museum in London Bridge to view the Kaffe Fassett exhibition. Pupils were able to see examples of his work on display, as well as works inspired by him made by international quilters.

This was an amazing opportunity to view his work up close, and the pupils took away lots of inspiration to help improve and enhance their portfolios.



Duke of Edinburgh Award



The Duke of Edinburgh award is for 14-24 year-olds who can do a DoFE programme at one of three progressive levels which, when successfully completed, leads to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

There are four sections to complete at Bronze and Silver level and five at Gold. They involve helping the community/environment, becoming fitter, developing new skills, planning, training for and completing an expedition and, for Gold only, working with a team on a residential activity. Any young person can do their DoFE – regardless of ability, gender, background or location. Achieving an Award isn't a competition or about being first. It's all about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries.

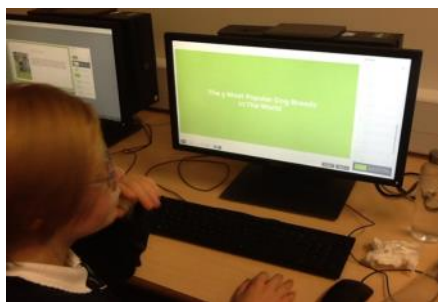
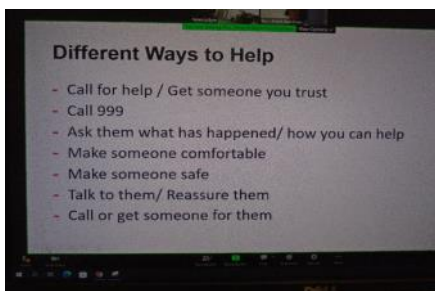
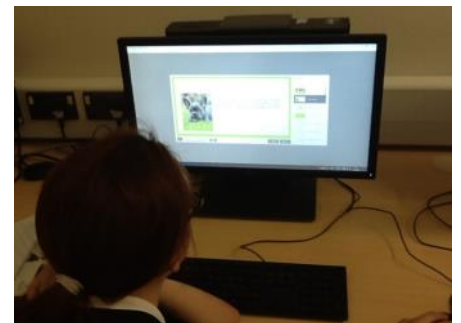
What a busy two terms for our DoFE pupils! Year 9 started their first section of the award and chose lots of different new skills to learn. The engineering group made wind turbines, paddle boats and paper aeroplanes.

The drawing group chose a type of drawing skill, and then researched and developed this into a final piece.

The event planning group planned the school disco - with tuck shop and music set list and even attended a zoom first aid course just in case.

Our dog handling group completed their online courses. Congratulations!

Such a great job by year 9. Well done on all of your hard work. Next we will move onto the physical section of the award.



French Class

Bonjour Grange Park!

Year 10 pupils have been making great progress in their new French lessons, as well as being introduced to some catchy French songs to help them pick up the language.

They have discovered the French Canadian teacher/rapper Etienne, who has inspired us all with his memorable take on French verbs, and been amused by the cheesy animated songs of Alain le Lait, who has taught us all about numbers, colours and his tête en bois (wooden head)!



The class ended the term with a lesson on French Christmas traditions including the legend of Saint Nicolas and Pere Fouettard. They rounded it off with a game of Christmas Bingo to practise our vocabulary – all accompanied by some very tasty French patisseries!

Animal Care

Animal Care this year is full of diversity - from feeding animals on Trottercliffe Farm to making an animal themed display for Remembrance.

We have visited Buttercups Goat Sanctuary where we were able to walk the goats on a lead, and learned about how the sanctuary is funded.

Down on the farm we have been clearing the fallen trees for more grazing areas for the animals and have been learning new skills on how to use tools safely. It is a wonderful opportunity for the pupil's to develop their practical skills and also to work together as a team, all vital skills that they will be able to carry into the future.

We look forward to the warmer weather in Spring, and hopefully some baby lambs!



Art

Key Stage 3 - Take One Picture

Key Stage 3 have taken part in a project inspired by the painting, *A Shipwreck in Stormy Seas*, by Claude-Joseph Vernet, 1773

The project took them on a creative journey that involved looking at art from around the world. Topics included: Trade, travel and slavery, colonialism and imperialism and non-Western art. We combined this with Black History month and explored how different cultures are represented in the art world.



Year 7 made clay boats with printed sails that linked to their identity. This was inspired by Yinka Shonibare's sculpture *Nelson's Ship in a Bottle*.



Year 8 made clay shackles and anti-slavery coins.



Year 9: The Benin Bronzes and Picasso

Year 9 have started their project about the Benin Bronzes. They have learnt how the people of Benin made elaborate bronze sculptures over 600 years ago by using the lost wax method.

Year 9 have also explored the impact of colonisation and imperialism and the consequences it incurred in Benin.

They are now linking this work to their artist study of Picasso, and the impact that African art had on the Western art world during the 19th and 20th centuries.

Year 9 have been designing masks doing grid drawing and creating abstract fruit faces inspired by Picasso!



Year 10 have started their project about portraiture. They have been developing their portrait drawing and painting skills and have looked at the work of Vincent van Gogh as their first artist study.

Year 11 are finishing off their portfolio projects and have produced some excellent final art studies.



Cookery

We are very lucky that our pupils are able to access a fully equipped kitchen and to work with wonderful produce and ingredients each week in their cookery lessons. The confidence and skills that are developed is really impressive and the pupils enjoy some of the independence they get when making their dishes in class.

So far this year pupils have been making a wide variety of dishes in their cookery lessons. Key stage 3 have been busy developing a range of food preparation skills and have cooked a wide variety of dishes including pizza and scones. This was a great opportunity for the year 8 pupils to practice their knife skills with some really impressive results. They have been following a number of recipes and have taken home soups, macaroni cheese, breads and Thai green curry.



Year 9 have been working hard in broadening their knowledge and have produced some wonderful dishes including burgers and wedges, focaccia bread and have baked biscuits which were dipped in chocolate.

Year 10 have been working hard to follow more complicated recipes and are working towards planning and cooking a nutritious family meal with a pudding for up to four people. Towards the end of term, they have been getting into the festive spirit making some amazing Christmas cakes which they then hand decorated.



Year 11 - Operation Christmas Child

Our year 11's participated in Operation Christmas Child this year, as part of our ongoing Rights Respecting work at school. They made 11 boxes and delivered these to a local church to be sent which will be sent overseas. Pupils discussed which project they wanted to support, coordinated and filled the shoeboxes, and then passed them on to the drop off point. A big thank you to all the families and staff who made donations to the appeal. We are sure that they gifts will be much appreciated, wherever in the world they are sent to.



Christmas 2022

As always, Christmas at Grange Park is a very special time of year. Following on from our Christmas afternoon for the Stansted pupils, we descended to St George's church at Wrotham for our annual Christmas service. It was lovely for the school to be able to come together and also to be able to welcome so many parents to join us.

We were treated to some fantastic singing from our Stansted pupils, a nativity from the Year 9 pupils, some wonderful readings and prayers and a beautiful solo from one of our Year 10 pupils.

So much time and effort goes into rehearsals and this really paid off, as the performances were outstanding. The snow made it a very cold, but incredibly Christmassy celebration. Following on from church, parents were invited to come back to the Wrotham site for tea and a mince pie, and it was lovely to be able to meet with so many of you.

At lunch, all the pupils and staff were treated to Mrs Hazelden's wonderful Christmas dinner, which as always, was thoroughly enjoyed by everybody. The floristry pupils made some beautiful table decorations which looked lovely and festive. There was such a vibrant and happy atmosphere, and we all left with very full bellies! The afternoon saw all the pupils join in the school quiz, which as always, is lots of fun.



The Samsung 2022 Solve for Tomorrow: Next Gen Competition

In September, Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd announced the winners of the second iteration of the Solve for Tomorrow: Next Gen Competition following a summer of workshops and ideas generation. This year, the programme encouraged 11-15 year olds across the UK to learn about the basics of Design Thinking, careers in STEM, and to create and submit their own ideas of how technology could solve a societal issue.

As part of Samsung's ongoing mission to defy barriers to help young people from all backgrounds find their purpose in tomorrow's world, Solve for Tomorrow: Next Gen seeks to empower the next generation of innovators, inviting students aged 11-15 to imagine a better world. The programme provides free online resources for schools, youth groups and families to help inspire the next generation of innovators. In 2022, young people learnt the basics of 'Design Thinking' and got a glimpse into creative STEM careers such as design and marketing with employees from Samsung. They then used everything they learnt to inspire their entries for the Solve for Tomorrow: Next Gen Competition, with 481 entries submitted to the judging panel. Entries from Grange Park were submitted by Mrs Chilvers.

This August, a panel of five Samsung judges named the 2022 winners of the competition. In the 13-15 age category Finn and Josh from year 10, were chosen as winners with their idea 'Bin'. This smart bin educates users about the journey of their rubbish, aiming to increase recycling.

Finn and Josh both received a Samsung Galaxy phone, and will get a VIP invitation to a Samsung event later this year.

This is an incredible achievement and Grange Park is incredibly proud of Finn and Josh for being so creative and demonstrating their STEM skills.



Interoception

The Therapy team at Grange Park do lots of work with pupils throughout the school on Interoception.

Interoception can help us identify our emotions, which in turn, helps us to self regulate.

Years 5/6, 7, 9 and Key Stage 5 have been trying out lots of experiments. Interoception is the sense of noticing our body signals and connecting to emotions to help us to develop our self-awareness. The pupils have had fun focusing on a different body part each week to draw attention to how it feels and have used amazing adjectives to do this.



It's important that staff fully participate too, and they are always ready to get stuck in!

There are lots of things you can try at home to see how different things make you feel, here are some simple examples to try when we are focusing on the skin.



Daily Activity List

Here are some activities, focus on how your skin feels while trying them out!

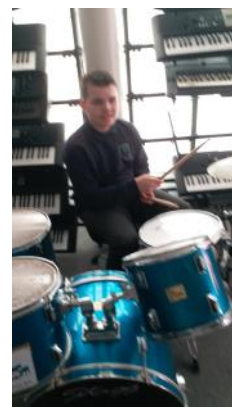
Hugging	Taking a shower/bath	After exercise	Cold/hot weather	Near a fire	Standing in the sun	Using fid- dlies	Freezer isle in a shop
Being tickled	Standing in front of a fan	Reaching into the freezer	After a cut or bruise	Putting on lotion	Taking a bite of food	Sitting in a warm car	Lying under lots of blankets

Lunch Time Clubs

There are a wide variety of lunch clubs each day for pupils across both sites.

Music club at Wrotham is very popular, with Mr Huggins working with the pupils on some songs by The Ramones, and also a Christmas song written by Jamie in Key Stage 5 called 'Christmas Without You'. We currently have 2 drummers, 2 keyboard players and a dozen guitarists, who are making some incredible sounds!

We also hold a very popular Life Skills club which runs on a Thursday, and pupils can build on their cookery skills. Pupils decide each week what they would like to make, and then their creativity in the kitchen is set free. There are always some incredible dishes at the end of the session.



Key Stage 5

London Preparing for Adulthood Trip

Key Stage 5 had been working hard to earn their first reward trip, and in October, they went to London for the day. This trip was chosen, planned and organised by themselves including the travel, tickets, timetable, lunch stops and what was the most cost efficient way of getting there. We travelled by train and tube, walked over Westminster bridge to the London Eye. This developed the student's independent and organisational skills, but also dealing with new and changing situations when things don't go well. As we were walking around London, the students saw a range of London landmarks and the student's behaviour was impeccable all day, Well done Key Stage 5.



Work Experience at the Farm

For Key Stage 5 Work Experience this term, they have visited the new cows at Leybourne Chase, which is part of Trottscliffe Farm. The cows were so friendly that students could hand feed them and stroke them.

Most of the students had never been this close to farm animals and they really enjoyed being with them.



College Partnership

Many of our Year 11 pupils progress onto courses at MidKent College at either the Medway or Maidstone campus.

So much great work happens at college, and students get to experience a range of different courses, many of which are vocational and enabling them to leave with great qualifications that will serve them well in the future.

Jayden - Catering

'I have gone from Grange Park School and now I'm at MidKent college studying Catering Level 1. The recent dish I've made is a lasagne, and a few more dishes in the past I've made have been rice pudding with short bread, tomato soup, syrup sponge cake and I'm going to be making spaghetti for my next catering meal. The meals we make are sold for a certain price and if we want to take our professional dish home, we need to pay at a price between 50p and £2.

The catering classes go from Level 1 to Level 3. The three teachers in the catering classes are named JJ, Paul, and Chris who are professional chefs. I am also supported by a Learning Mentor from the Grange Park Partnership who are normally Toni, Sue or Renu. I enjoy this course because it allows me to get better with my skills in the kitchen and perhaps become a professional chef.'



Nathan, Charlotte, William, Lily, Rhone & Wilf

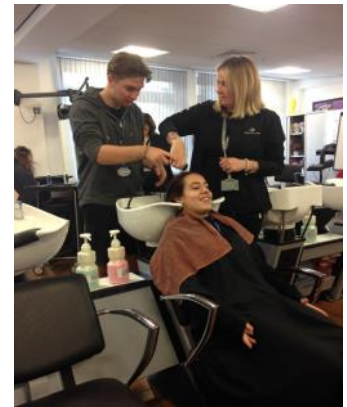
The students at College have worked incredibly hard on their new programmes of study.

Nathan is on a Creative Media course and in this photo he is using a camera to take photos of a bottle. He experimented using different backgrounds and effects.

Charlotte and William are on a Motor Vehicle course. Charlotte also works in a garage every Thursday for work experience.

Wilf is on a Multi Trades course this term and he has been taking part in carpentry, painting and decorating.

Rhone and Lily are on a Hairdressing course. This photo is of them in the salon on a practical day using their new skills.



Daniel - Catering

'I am doing Level 1 Professional Cookery. It is a great experience and I get to make all kinds of food such as tomato soup, upside-down pear cake, lasagne and many more dishes.

I have great experience in baking with such talents like kneading, beating, and rolling the dough into tasty pastry products such as bread, pizza, croissants, sausage roll and tarts.'



Luke - Animal Care

'I have just transitioned from Grange Park to MidKent College. A couple of years ago I would be feeling really nervous, however, now I've built up my confidence, I can do things by myself and become more independent. Now I've met new people and become friends with the people that I've met on the same Level 1 Animal Care course as me. They always ask me how I'm feeling and help me whenever I'm stuck. Before I came here I was at Grange Park and before that Bower Grove which are my old schools, that I was very quiet in but now I feel more confident and I feel like I can meet new people and start new friendships.

I have enjoyed College very much. I get to hold animals and build things for them such as cages, clean out their area and making sure that they are healthy. During breaks, I get to go off site to a place of my choosing as long as it's not too far away from College, I should be able to get there and back on time for my lessons. But my favourite thing about the College is that they treat you more like adults and at break time and lunch you get the freewill to do whatever you fancy and have a good time.'



IQM Award

In October, we were awarded the IQM Inclusive School Award with Flagship Status. This was a fantastic achievement, and here are some of the key findings about the school from their report.

Student voice

'Student voice is far from tokenistic at Grange Park School with every opportunity taken to ensure students are able to express their contributions to school life, from choosing their subjects, to choosing activities for lunchtime clubs. The school has two elected 'head pupil' positions. These were originally named 'head boy' and 'head girl' until a pupil raised the question as to why they were gender specific. The school has focused on celebrating diversity and is working hard to overcome stereotypes. An excellent example of this is inviting a past pupil back to school to talk to present pupils about his sexuality and coping methods he has used successfully.'

Staff speak highly of support available

'Leaders are not afraid to have difficult conversations with parents and professionals if needed and always have the needs of the pupil central to decisions that are made. This extends to a shift in culture in supporting staff to have difficult conversations with students about future aspirations and ensuring that conversations are honest and result in suitable and purposeful qualifications and work experience.'

Extra-curricular activities are vast

'Leaders prioritise transition across the provision and recognise that learners need personalised transition programmes to support needs. Grange Park School has a multi-disciplinary approach to transition led by the transition lead. Learner and parent voices are a very important part of this process. Leaders and staff from Grange Park School regularly visit the different sites. This informal handover very effectively supports learners' transitions.

Parents speak very highly of the school and give credit to the personalised approaches that allow their children to reach their potential. Parents are delighted that their children are supported to be themselves and build their self-confidence. It is clear that the transdisciplinary approach is very well received with parents praising the holistic support their children have. Constructive relationships were highlighted during the meeting with parents grateful to have a voice and input into their children's school life. They described staff as 'going above and beyond' for their children and always visible at school events.

Grange Park School is truly pupil centred and staff work tirelessly to overcome any barriers pupils may face. Leaders pride themselves on starting with a problem and working out what needs to happen to overcome, regardless of resources, and then working out how to make it work for the school.'

Thank you to all the pupils, parents and staff who contributed on the assessment day.



School Gateway & School dinner bookings

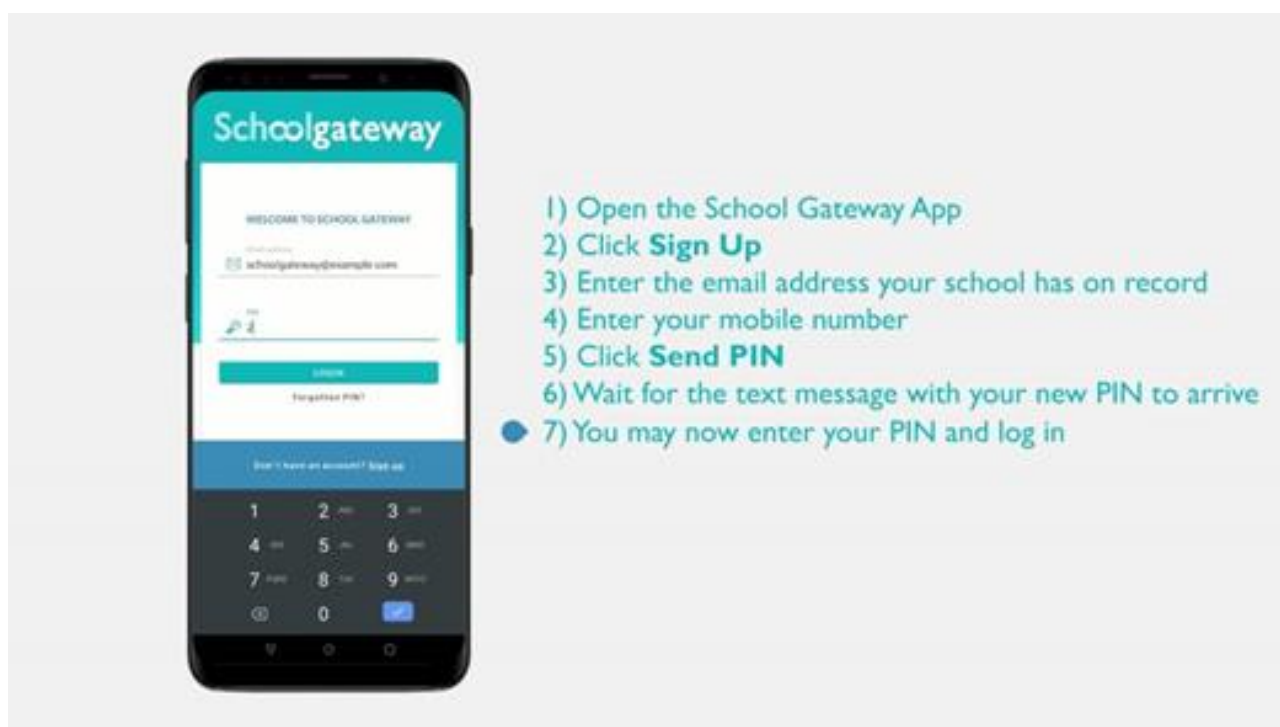
Since September, we have moved to using the School Gateway app to book school dinners. This is a quick and easy way for us to provide numbers to the kitchen so that they can prepare the correct amount of dinners for the pupils.



Thank you to all those who are booking school meals daily. The menus for the new term are uploaded before the end of term, and you can book dinners for a single day, a week, or the term if you prefer. If your child will be having a school dinner, please can you ensure that you are making their booking by 9.00am on the day so that the kitchen can be fully prepared. If your child is in receipt of free school meals, please ensure that you book in the same way, and the app will not charge you for the meal.

Please download the School Gateway app, and make your bookings via the 'Dinner' section. All payments can be made through the payment option.

We politely request that meal balances are paid weekly to avoid building up any large debts. If you need any help with the app or making payment, then please do not hesitate to contact the school office who will be happy to help.



Severe Snow/Ice Plan

How will we let you know that school (Wrotham & Stansted sites) is closed?

If we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, Miss Atwell may have to take the decision to close the school. Once this decision has been made, we will notify parents via the Kent Closures website.

To determine whether Grange Park School is open or closed, please visit www.kentclosures.co.uk. Search for the school in the search box. The Kent closures website may also be used to find out if other services in Kent are open or closed, such as nurseries, children's centres and libraries.

We also recommend parents sign up for Email alerts on the Kent Closures website. This service will send an email alert to let parents know if Grange Park School is closed. Local radio will sometimes provide information of school closures.

We will also endeavour to inform you via our text messaging service (Parentmail), so please ensure we have your current mobile number.

How will we let you know if the college is closed?

If we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions:-

Parents can directly contact Maxine Hamilton on **07591 852944** or Jean Moule on **07517 952168**

Parents and students should follow the guidance from the college site that their son/daughter is currently attending.

Due to the varied locations of each campus, the college may make a decision to close, one site or all sites, or remain open, dependent on the severity of the weather at each campus.

Parents and students should go to Google, log on to the main MKC or Hadlow home page, the college will provide information should it be open or closed, this is usually highlighted in yellow, at the top of the page. The college will update the information on a daily basis.

Tutors will email students with set work to be completed at home for each snow day.

Partnership students will not be requested to travel or work at the School site, if the college is closed and the school is open.

What can you do to help?

Please visit www.kent.gov.uk/winter for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Kent so you can plan your journey.

Don't forget suitable warm clothing – gloves, hats, scarves, wellies etc. or even a change of clothing.

Grange Park School Term Dates 2022-2023

TERM 3 - 2023

START OF TERM FOR PUPILS:	Tuesday 3 rd January 2023
END OF TERM 3:	Friday 10 th February 2023

TERM 4 - 2023

START OF TERM FOR PUPILS:	Monday 20 th February 2023
END OF TERM 4:	Friday 31 st March 2023

TERM 5 - 2023

START OF TERM FOR PUPILS:	Monday 17 th April 2023
BANK HOLIDAY	Monday 1 st May 2023
BANK HOLIDAY	Monday 8 th May 2023
END OF TERM 5:	Friday 26 th May 2023

TERM 6 - 2023

START OF TERM FOR PUPILS:	Monday 5 th June 2023
END OF TERM 6:	Friday 21 st July 2023



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Grange Park School.